

FOOTWEAR EVIDENCE COLLECTION

Footwear Evidence Collection: The ability to make comparisons between shoes and an impression depends entirely on the quality of the photographs and casts and/or “lifts” of the impression. Please follow directions carefully.

A. Photographs of impressions (Use TMAX 100 black & white film).

1. Fill the camera frame with the whole impression.
2. Include an accurate scale or ruler **at the same level as the impression** in the picture. Place the scale as close **to the impression** as possible without touching the impression.
3. The camera **lens must be completely parallel to the impression** for all pictures (angled photos distort the image).
4. Position a flashlight or flash with sync. Cord so that the light source is at least five feet away from the impression.
5. Keeping a log of the photos, photograph the impression from **north, south, east and west** with three different lighting angles for a total of 12 photos.

NOTE: For dust impressions: dust impressions can often be lifted. Place the flash or flashlight at the same level as the impression and photograph using a bracket of exposures. Photograph in total darkness if possible.

6. Submit photos and negatives to the lab, packaged as noted in **General Packaging Instructions**.
7. Submit comparison shoes, if available, packaged as noted in **General Packaging Instructions**.
8. Phone forensic laboratory for assistance.

B. Casting of impressions: In case of tire tracks and other difficult or unusual situations, please contact the forensic laboratory for assistance.

REMEMBER: Casts back up photographs. Photograph properly first, then cast.

1. Place 1 ½ pounds of dental stone and 9oz of water in a large, heavy-duty ziplock bag and mix well.
2. Carefully pour the mixture onto the impression using a stick to deflect the direct stream and prevent damage to the impression.
3. Wait at least 20 minutes before attempting to lift the cast. **DO NOT CLEAN THE CAST!**
4. Label casting with pencil or black permanent marker.
5. After the **cast has dried for 24 hours**, wrap in **PAPER** (never use plastic!) sealed with tape.
6. Place wrapped casting in a box. **PAD WELL** with newspapers or other packing material. Mark package and seal as noted in **General Packaging Instructions**.